

CLAIMS

1. Method of recognition, by a receiver connected to a bidirectional network, of digital services on the bidirectional network, characterized in that
5 it comprises at least the following steps:
 - the receiver connects to a first stream;
 - the receiver extracts from said stream information on the location on the network, on the one hand, of streams conveying the content of these services and, on the other hand, of separate
10 streams conveying information describing these services;
 - the receiver connects to at least some of the streams conveying the service description information to obtain information on these services;
 - the receiver uses this information to construct a list, possibly
15 unitary, of services available on the network.
2. Method according to Claim 1 in which all the signalling tables relating to a service are contained in at least one stream other than the stream conveying the content of said service.
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3. Method according to Claim 2 comprising a step for testing the mapping between an identifier and a filter contained in the descriptor of a stream used to determine whether a table having this identifier is available in said stream.
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4. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 3 in which the first broadcast IP address and the first port number are entered by the user.
5. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 3 in which the first IP address and the first port number are obtained from the network by the
30 receiver.

6. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 5 in which the streams contain only a single DVB service.
- 5 7. Method according to one of Claims 1 to 6 in which the list of services is included in the NIT contained in the stream available at the first broadcast IP address on the first port.
- 10 8. Device having means of connecting to a broadcast IP address via means of connection to an IP network and means of decoding a DVB stream broadcast to this broadcast IP address, characterized in that the DVB stream decoding means have the capability of analysing an NIT, extracted from the stream, containing network descriptors suited to the IP network, and of connecting to each broadcast IP address described in said NIT to read in it a DVB stream and extract from it the information on the services offered on the network, preferably according to any one of the methods according to the preceding claims.
- 20 9. Descriptor of a service for broadcasting a DVB stream for inclusion in an NIT, characterized in that it contains the broadcast IP address of a stream server and a port number to which said server broadcasts a DVB stream conveying the content of a service over an IP type network and at least one descriptor containing the broadcast IP address of a stream server and a port number to which said server broadcasts a DVB stream conveying signalling information relating to said service.
- 30 10. Descriptor according to Claim 9 in which the one or more descriptors containing the broadcast IP address of a stream server and a port number to which said server broadcasts a DVB stream conveying signalling information relating to said service also contain the means of testing the mapping between an identifier and a filter.